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THE LABOR PROBLEM ON DAIRY FARMS
IN
SEVERAL NORTHEASTERN AND NORTHCENTRAL STATES
DURING THE 1942 AGRICULTURAL SEASON

Prepared by
Labor Division
Farm Security Administration
United States Department of Agriculture

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AUTHOR (SURNAME FIRST)

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administration received early in the Spring of 1942. In reports, a reconnaissance field survey was planned and conducted with the following objectives: (1) to obtain basic information on the labor requirements of dairy farms; (2) to determine the extent of a labor shortage of year-round workers, what efforts had been made to meet whatever shortage existed, and the success of those efforts; and (3) to devise a plan to meet whatever shortage now exists or may exist in the near future.

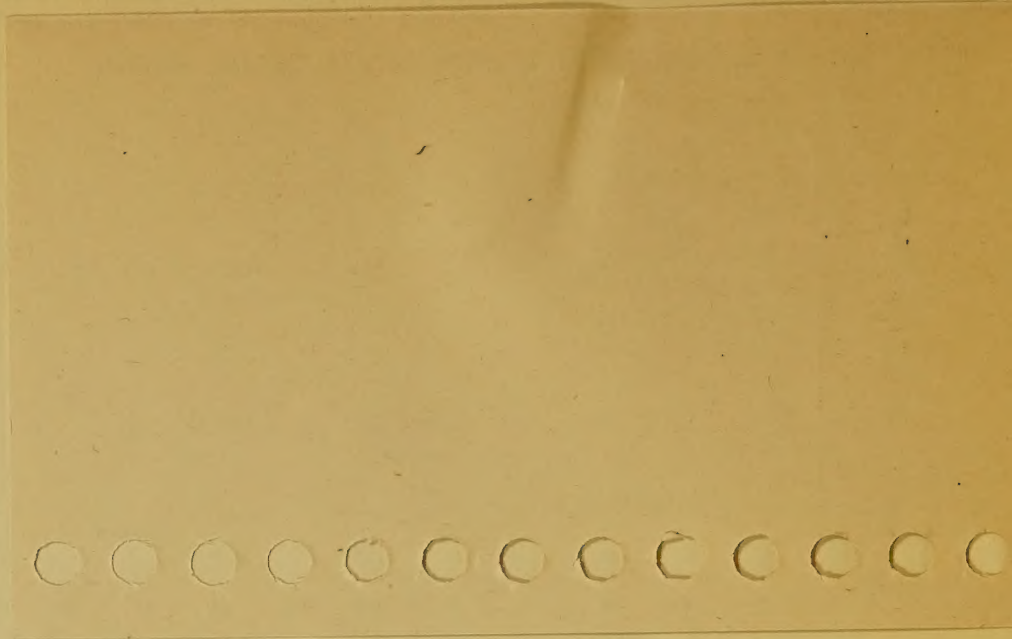
The following counties were visited by members of the Labor Division staff: Litchfield, Connecticut; Chittenden, Vermont; Madison and St. Lawrence, New York; Carroll, Indiana; Kent, Ingham, Livingston and Saginaw, Michigan; Kane, Illinois; Dane, Dodge, Marathon, and Waukesha, Wisconsin; Goodhue, Minnesota; and Jackson, Missouri.

Findings and Conclusions

As of July 1, 1942, no acute shortage of year-round help on dairy farms was found in any of the areas that were visited. Minor shortages were found in the counties that were close to defense production centers. In other places, particularly in Minnesota, the labor supply was sufficient to meet needs.

The findings, supporting the conclusion that there is no acute shortage of year-round labor in the areas visited, are as follows:

1. Every county visited showed an increase in milk production during the first five months of 1942 over the same period in 1941. This increase is especially significant when it is noted that 1941 was a year of relatively high production.
2. There has been little or no loss of feed crops, such as hay and corn, that can be attributed mainly to a lack of regular hired help.
3. Replacements have been found for many of the farm hands who have left during the last year or two.
4. Local draft boards have deferred a high percentage of regular year-round farm workers who were needed on the farm on which employed and who requested such action.



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The Labor Problem on Dairy Farms
in
Several Northeastern and Northcentral States
During the 1942 Agricultural Season

Introduction

The Labor Division of the Farm Security Administration received many reports of a labor shortage on dairy farms during the Spring of 1942. In order to investigate the authenticity of these reports, a reconnaissance field survey was planned and conducted with the following objectives: (1) to obtain basic information on the labor requirements of dairy farms; (2) to determine the extent of a labor shortage of year-round workers, what efforts had been made to meet whatever shortage existed, and the success of these efforts; and (3) to devise a plan to meet whatever shortage now exists or may exist in the near future.

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Average Daily Milk Production (Pounds)

| | 1911-1912 | August 1 1912 | 1912 |
|---------|-----------|------------------|------|
| 1. 1911 | 14.2 | 14.7 | 14.0 |
| 2. 1911 | 14.7 | 14.7 | 17.3 |
| 3. 1911 | 14.7 | 14.7 | 20.4 |
| 4. 1911 | 11.0 | 13.0 | 13.1 |
| 5. 1911 | 14.7 | 16.4 | 17.4 |
| 6. 1911 | 14.2 | 15.0 | 17.4 |
| 7. 1911 | 14.4 | 14.0 | 19.9 |
| 8. 1911 | 14.0 | 16.0 | 14.0 |
| 9. 1911 | 14.1 | 14.1 | 16.0 |

1. General Crop Report as of August 1, 1912, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture.

